Solar Cell Analysis Under Venus Atmosphere Conditions

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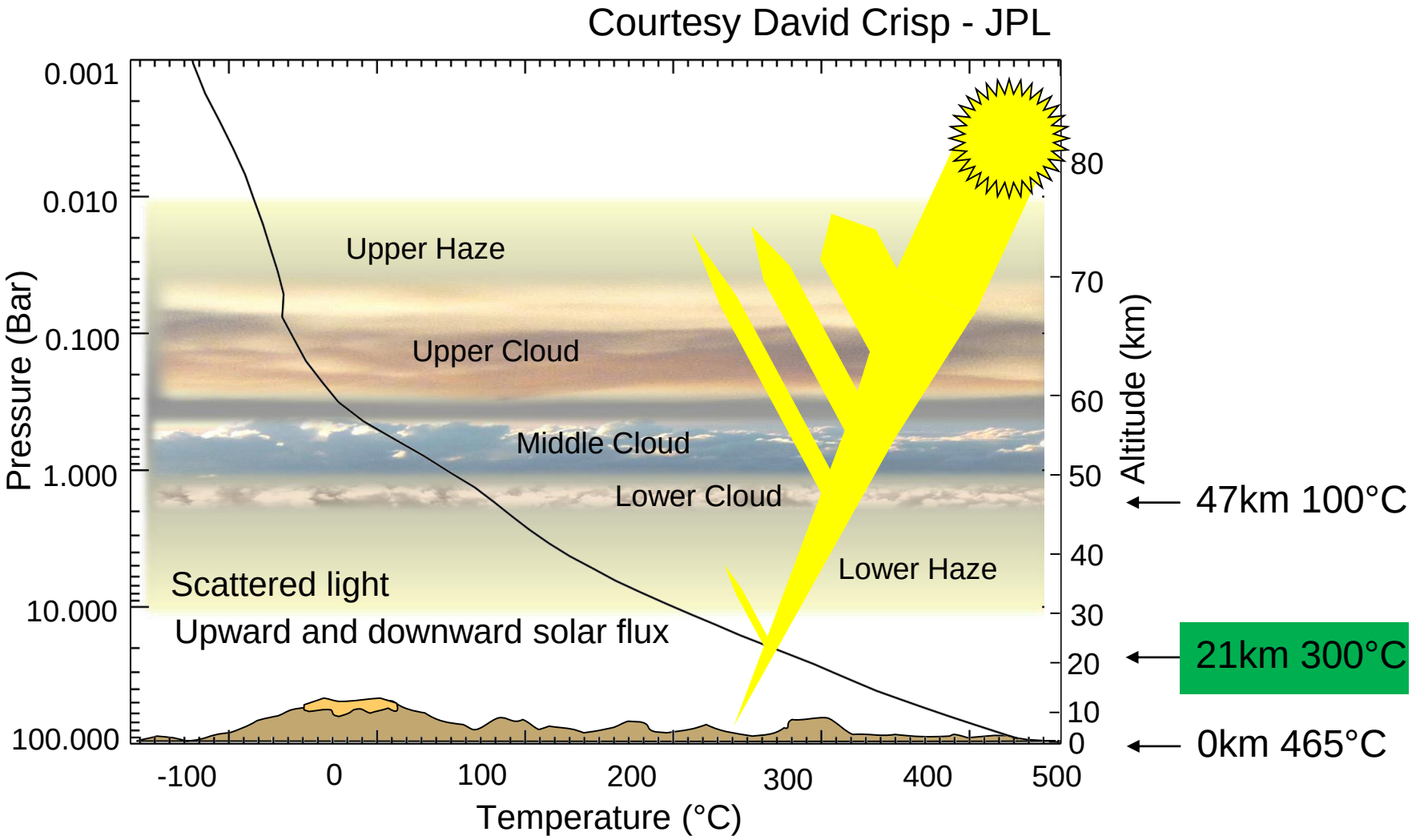
Outline

- Venus atmosphere and solar illumination
- Solar cell performance under Venus temperature and solar spectrum
- Lifetime testing for survivability at Venus
- Solar cell modelling and optimization
- Conclusion

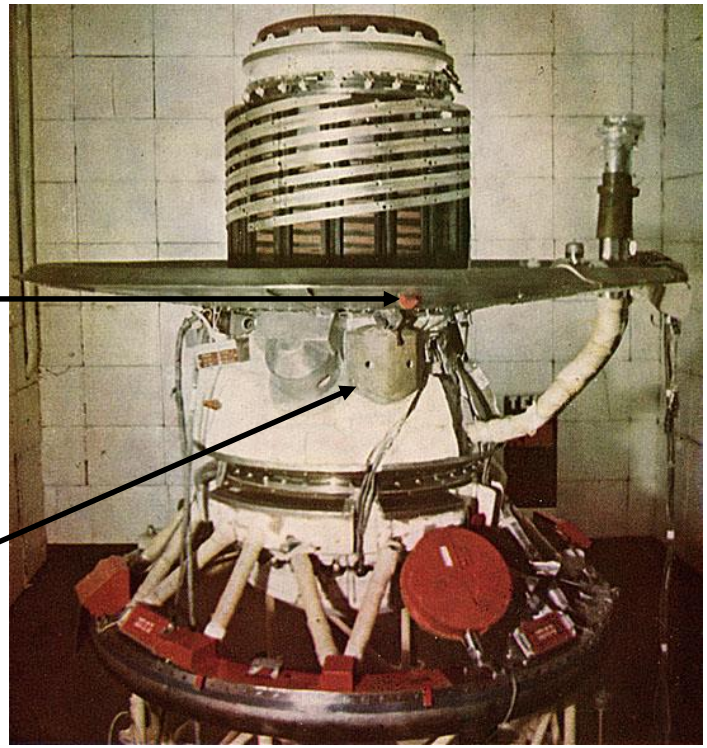
Venus atmosphere and solar illumination



Goal: Solar cell operates optimally at 21km altitude and survives at the surface during limited time excursions

Venus atmosphere and solar illumination

Venera-11 descent module



View of a plain near Phoebe Regio from Venera 13, taken on 1 March 1982.

Photometer measurements from Venera 11 and Venera 13 are used to estimate available solar power.

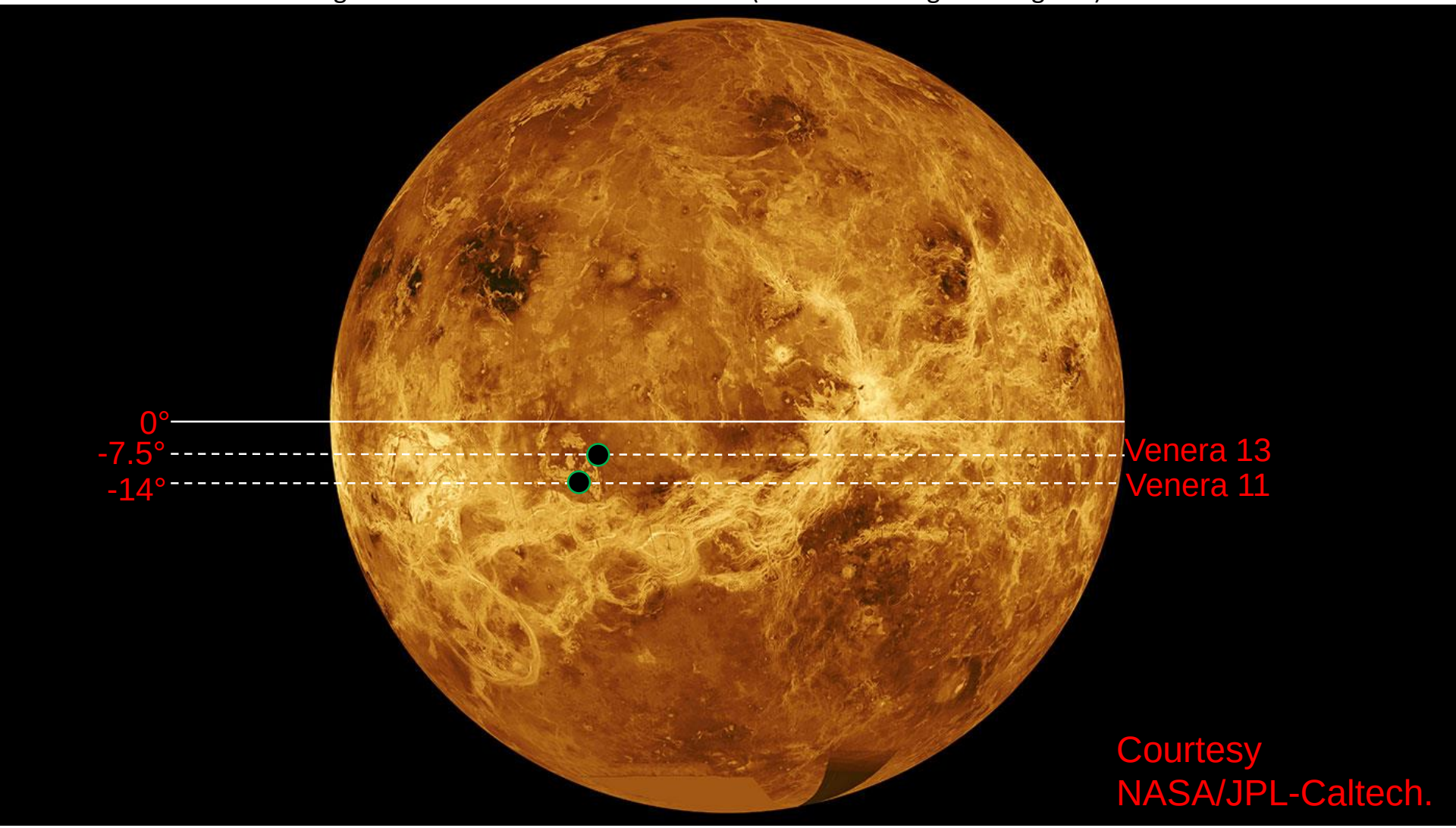
Courtesy Don P. Mitchell

Venus atmosphere and solar illumination

Venus (Hunten, Colin, Donahue, and Moroz, Eds., 1983) - Table II of Larry Colin's chapter (Chapter 2)

Venera 11 entered at -14 degrees latitude at 11:10 AM local solar time (solar zenith angle 17 degrees) on December 25th 1978.

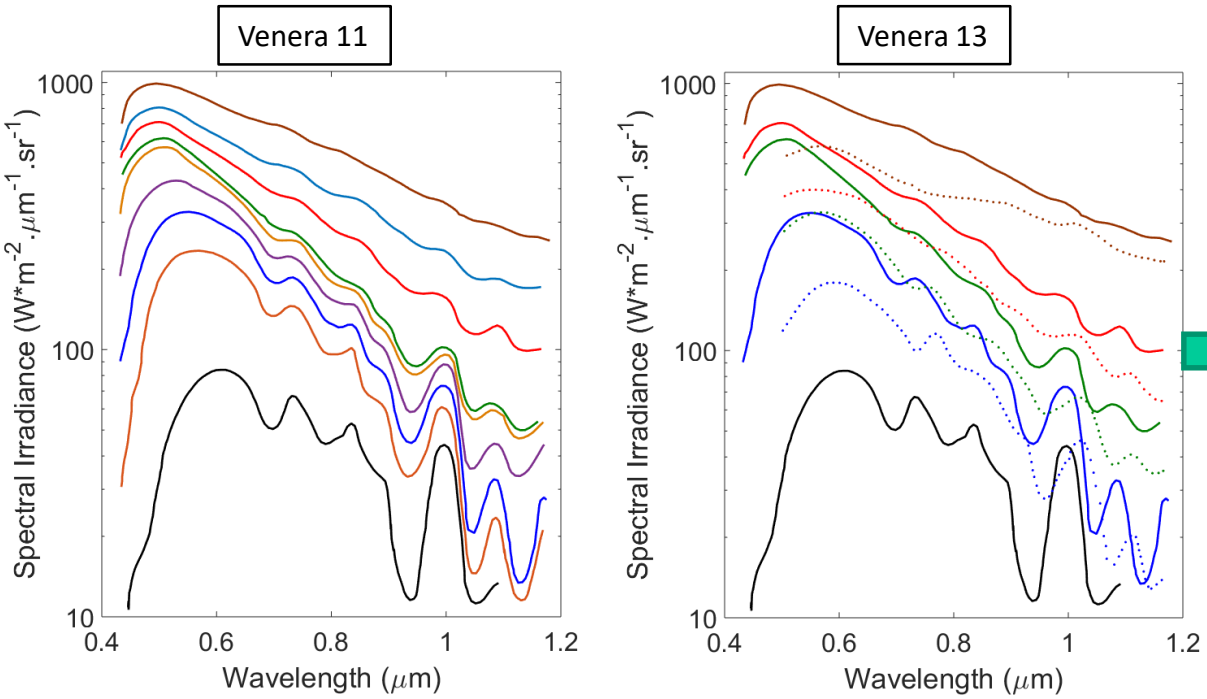
Venera 13 entered at -7.5 degrees latitude at 9:27 AM local time (solar zenith angle 38 degrees) on March 1st 1982.

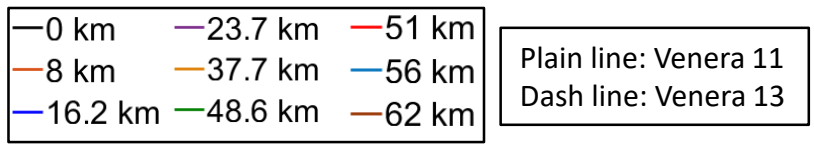


Venus atmosphere and solar illumination

Venus spectrum is very different from Earth and altitude dependent

Solar zenith angle 17 degrees (Venera 11) and solar zenith angle 38 degrees (Venera 13) changes the path length by ~20%, but there is an optical depth 25-40 H_2SO_4 that accounts for a factor of 1.8 in radiance.

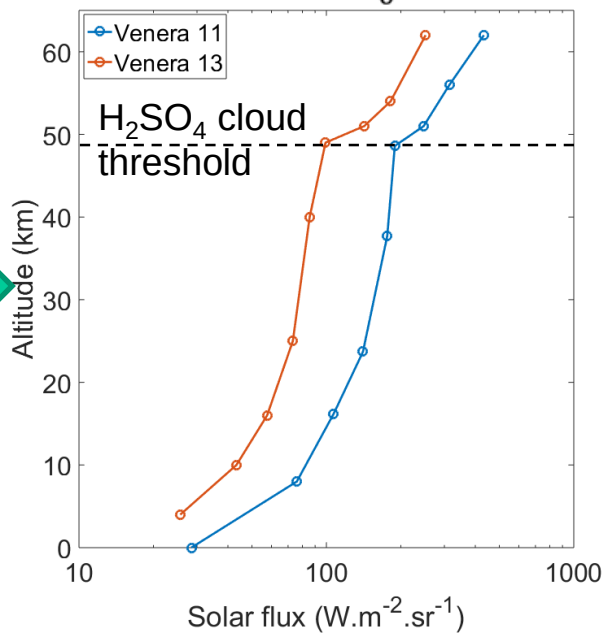




Plain line: Venera 11
Dash line: Venera 13

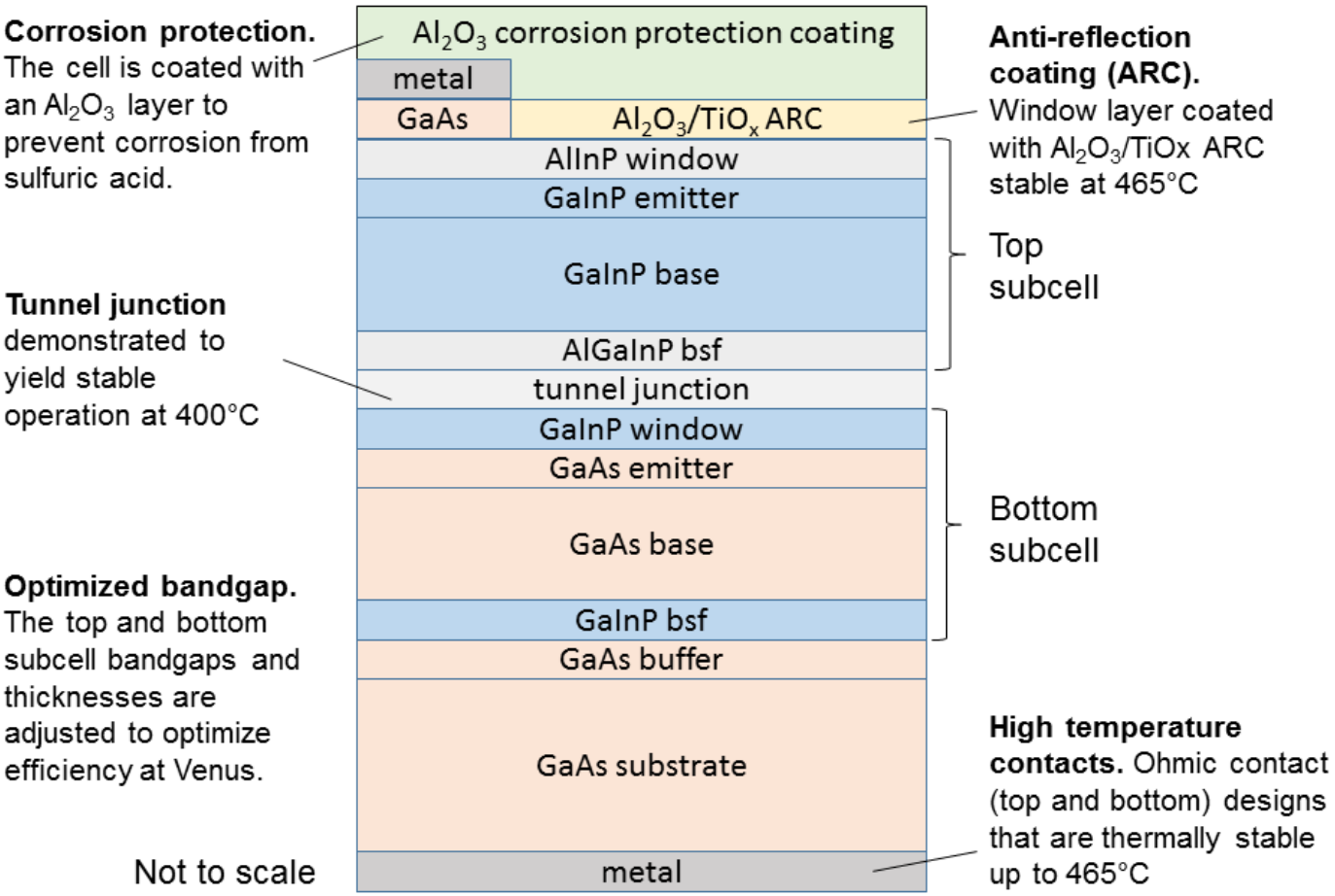
Venus solar spectrum at various altitudes of Venus measured by Venera 11 and Venera 13 descent probes.

$$H(W/m^2/sr) = \int_0^\infty F(\lambda)\, d\lambda$$



Downward Solar flux calculated by Integrating solar spectrum for Venera 11 and Venera 13 descent probes.

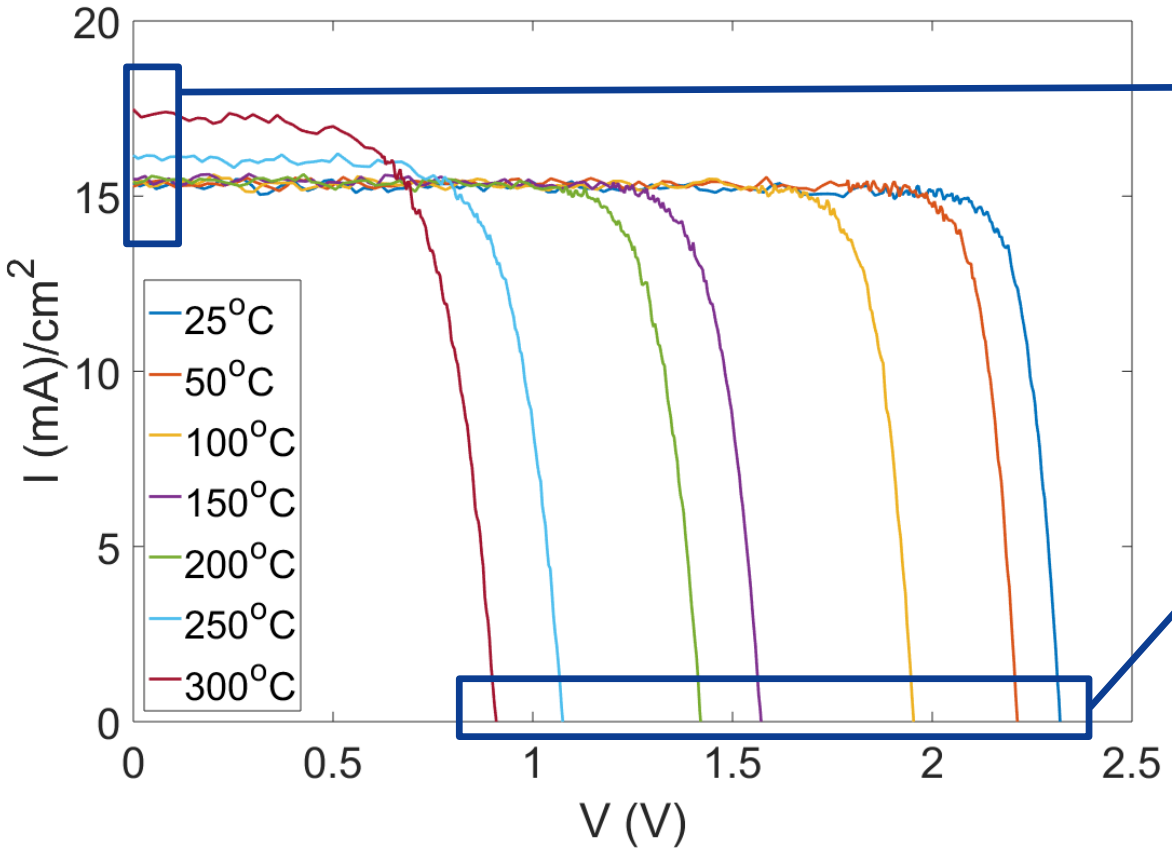
Solar Cell Design for Venus Temperature and Solar Spectrum

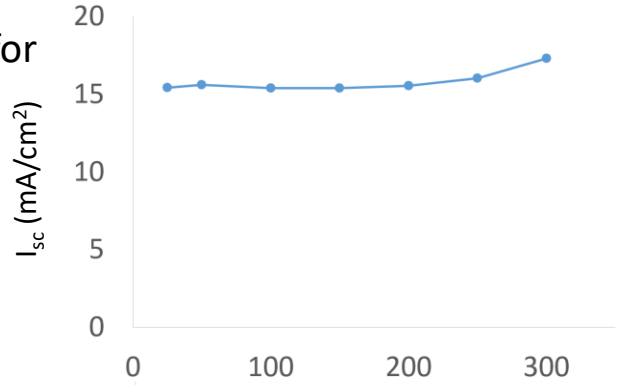


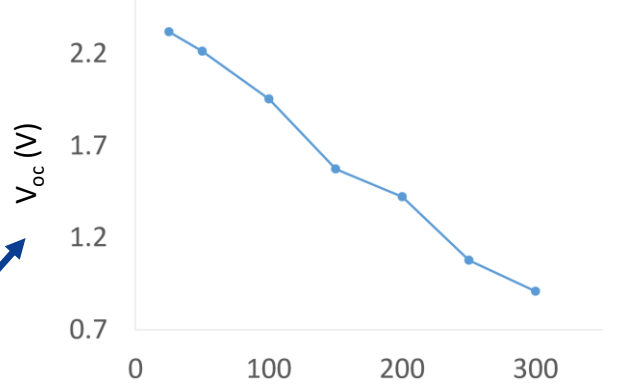
Y. Sun et al., "*Thermal stability of GaAs solar cells for high temperature applications*," 2016 IEEE 43rd Photovoltaic Specialists Conference (PVSC), Portland, OR, 2016, pp. 2385-2388.

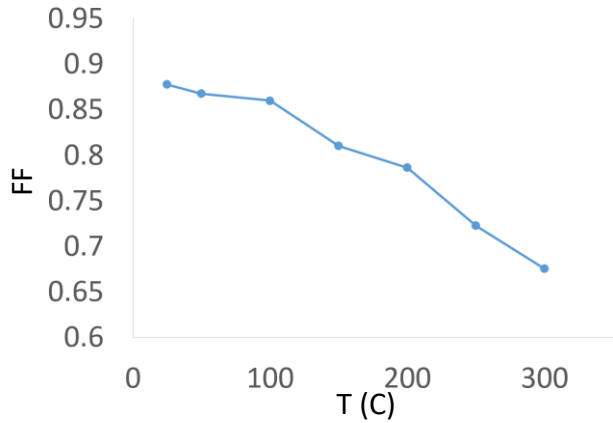
Solar cell performance under Venus temperature and solar spectrum

I_{sc} at room temperature is 15.66 mA/cm^2 which is close to 15.60 mA/cm^2 for the current limiting EQE junction weighted by the AM0 solar spectrum





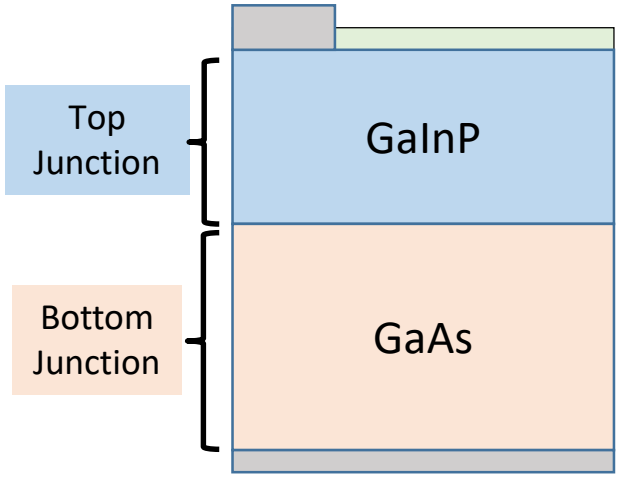




Temperature dependence of the solar cell between room temperature and 300C (21 km altitude at Venus)

JPL test capability simulates Venus temperature conditions

Solar cell performance under Venus temperature and solar spectrum



Current:

$$J_{\text{solar}}(\lambda) = N_0(\lambda) * e^-$$

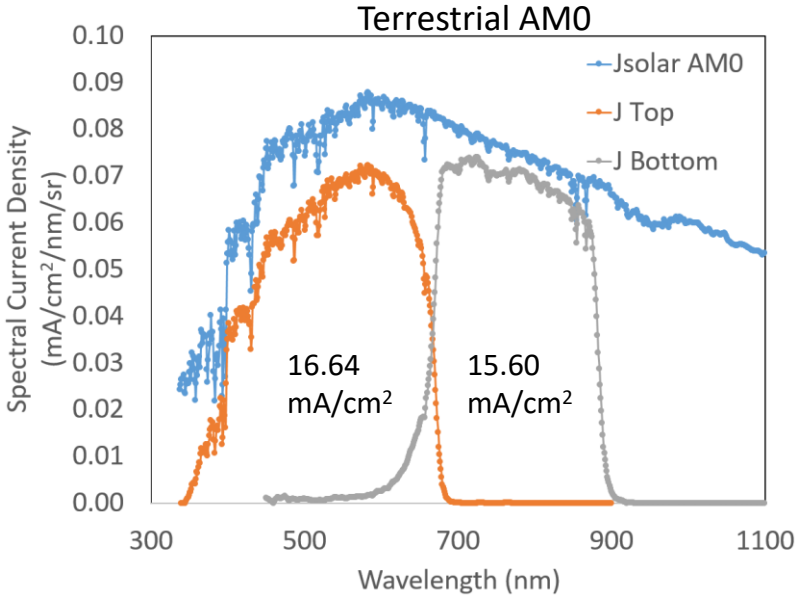
$$J_{ph} = \text{EQE} * J_{solar}(\lambda)$$

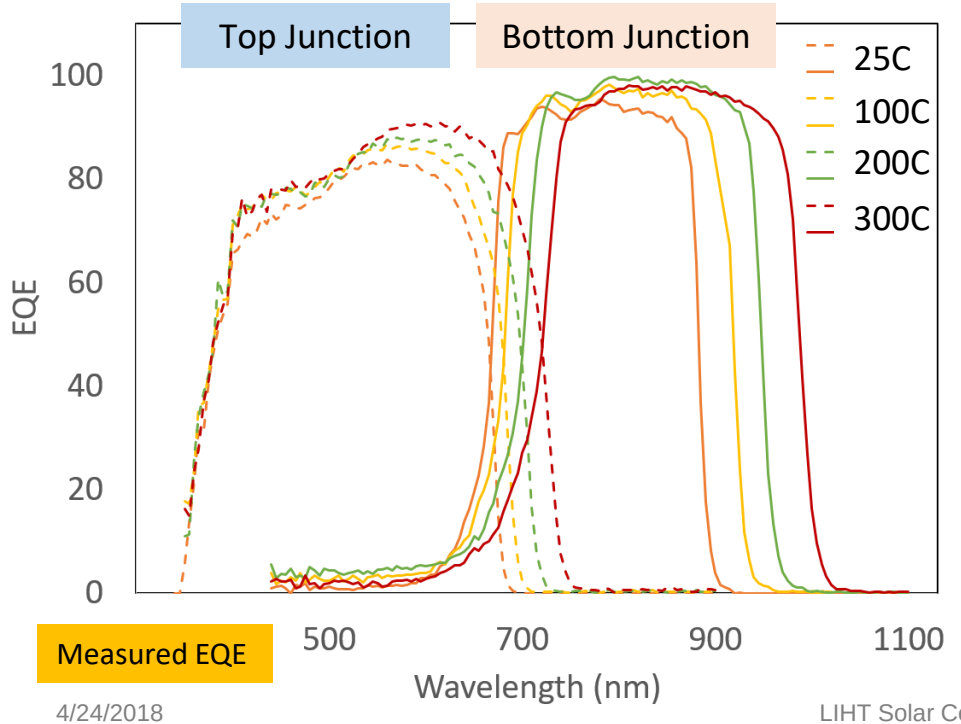
With Incident photon flux:

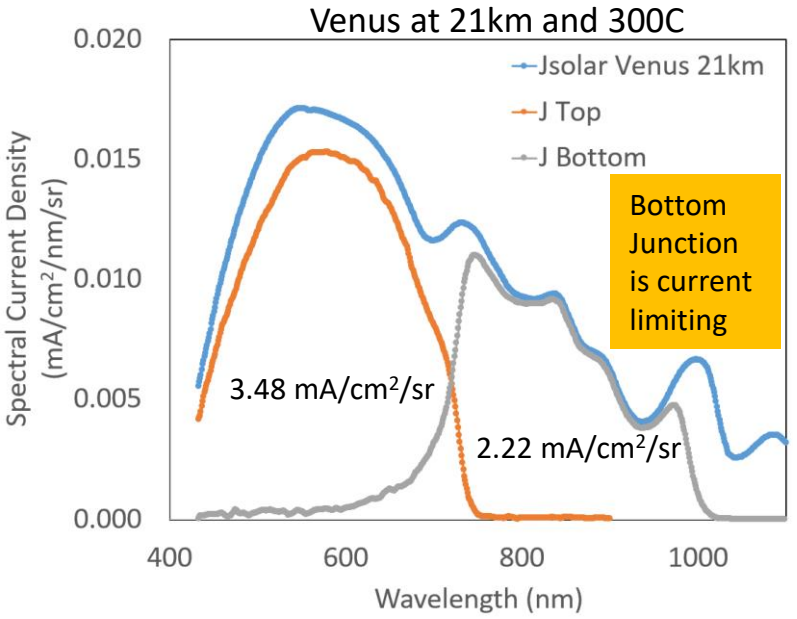
$$N_0(\lambda) = \frac{P_{\text{solar}}(\lambda)}{E_{\text{ph}}(\lambda)}$$

And photon energy:

$$E_{\text{ph}}(\lambda) = \text{hc}/\lambda$$







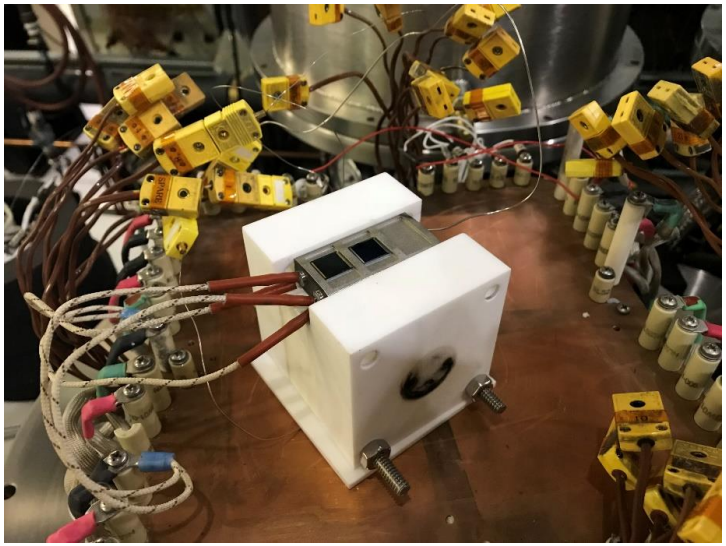
Lifetime testing for survivability at Venus

Ag based Metallization 1
Al based Metallization 2

	300°C Venus 21km	465°C Venus Surface
1h	Metallization 1 and Metallization 2	Metallization 1 and Metallization 2
8h		
24h		
1 week		

1 cm^2 fabricated solar cell

Lifetime Testing setup.
Developed and designed at JPL



Bare solar cells were heated at 300°C (Venus temperature at 21 km altitude) and 465°C (Venus surface temperature) under high vacuum 10^{-7} Torr.

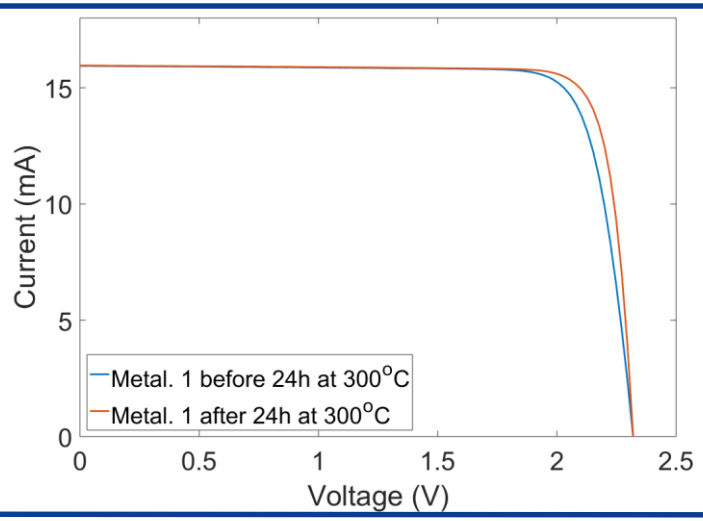
Lifetime testing for survivability at Venus

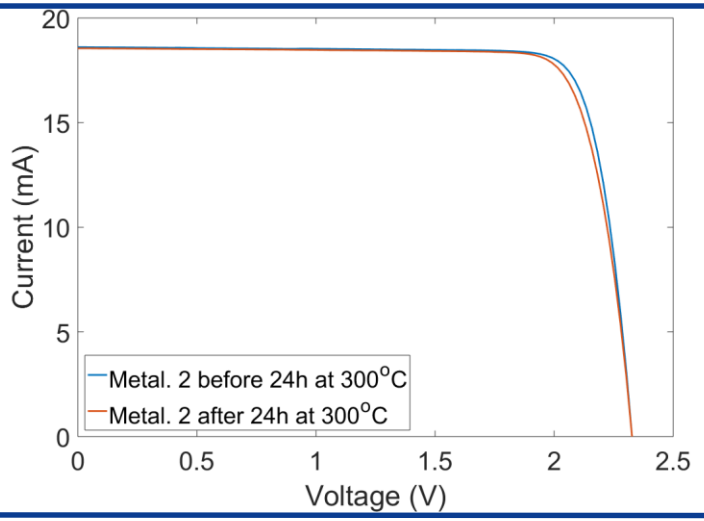
I-V Before and After 1week at 300°C AM0 1-Sun Light I-V Measurements at Microlink Devices

Metallization 1

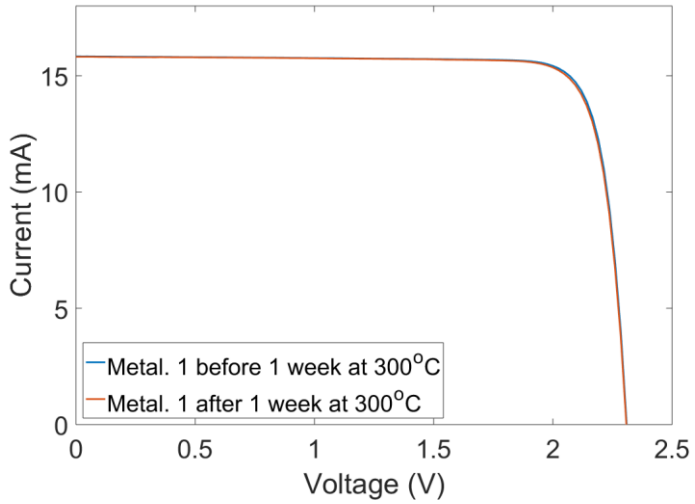
Metallization 2

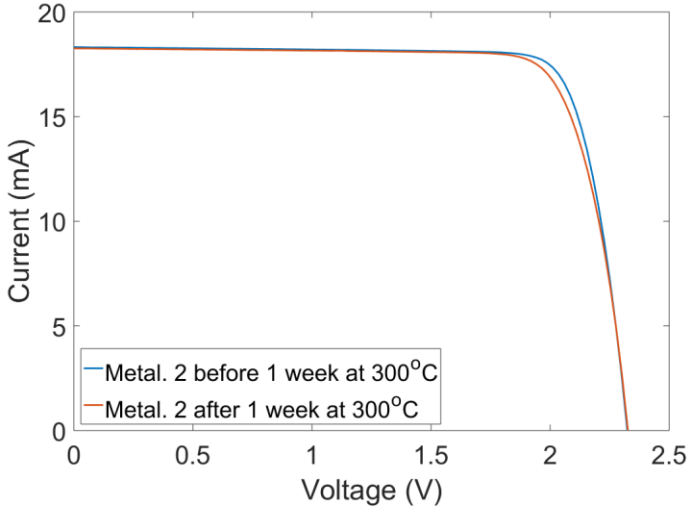
24 hours





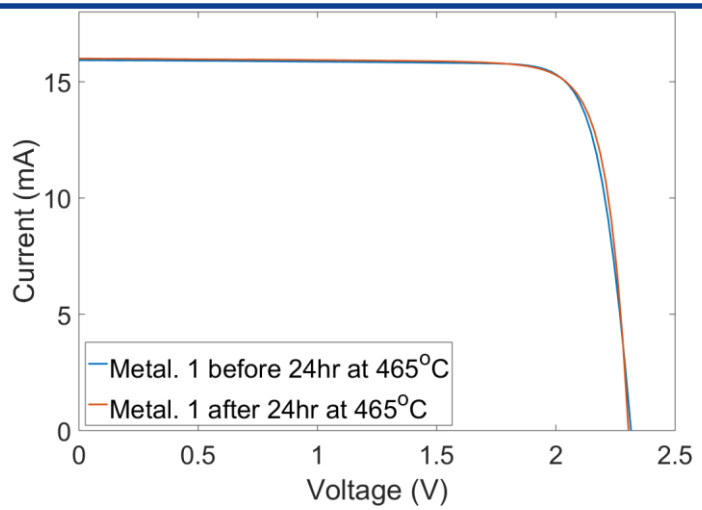
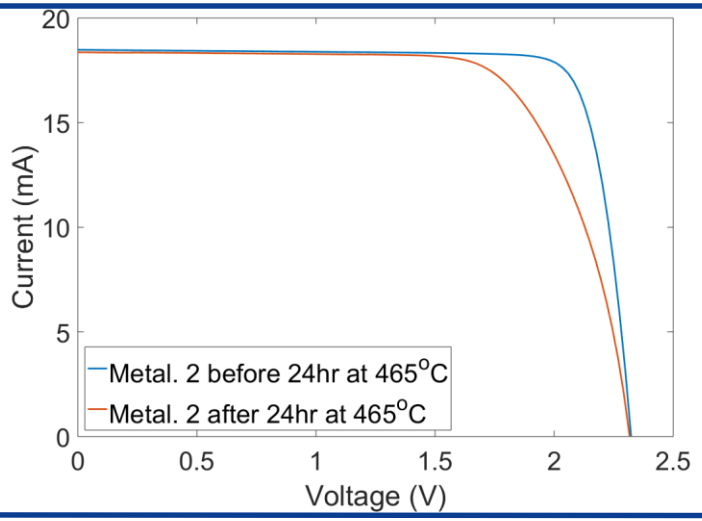
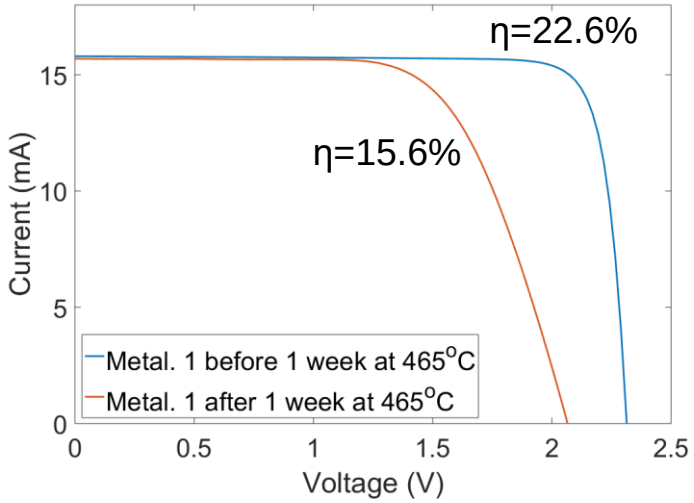
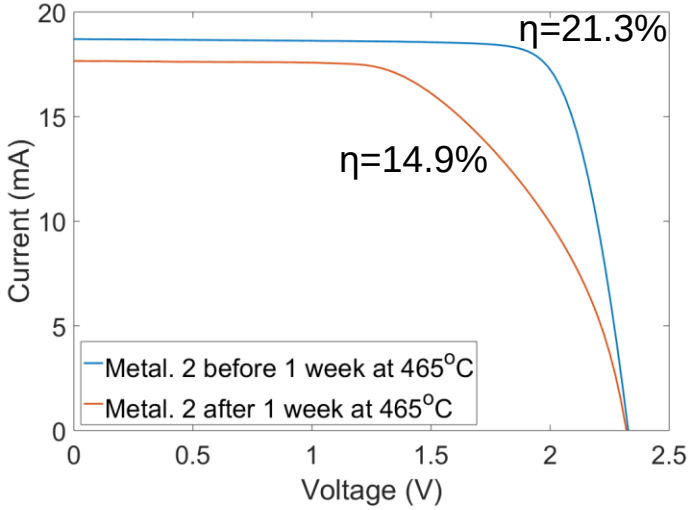
1 week



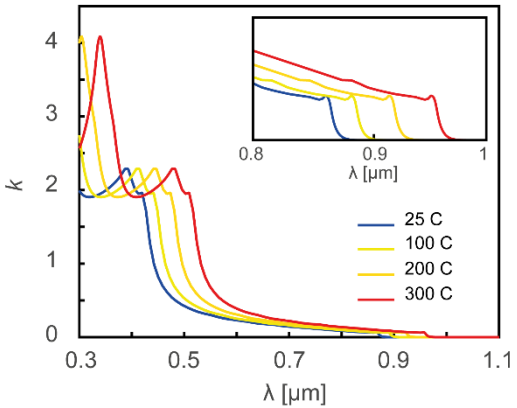


Lifetime testing for survivability at Venus

I-V Before and After 1week at 465°C AM0 1-Sun Light I-V Measurements at Microlink Devices

	Metallization 1	Metallization 2
24 hours		
1 week		

Solar cell modelling and optimization (Caltech)

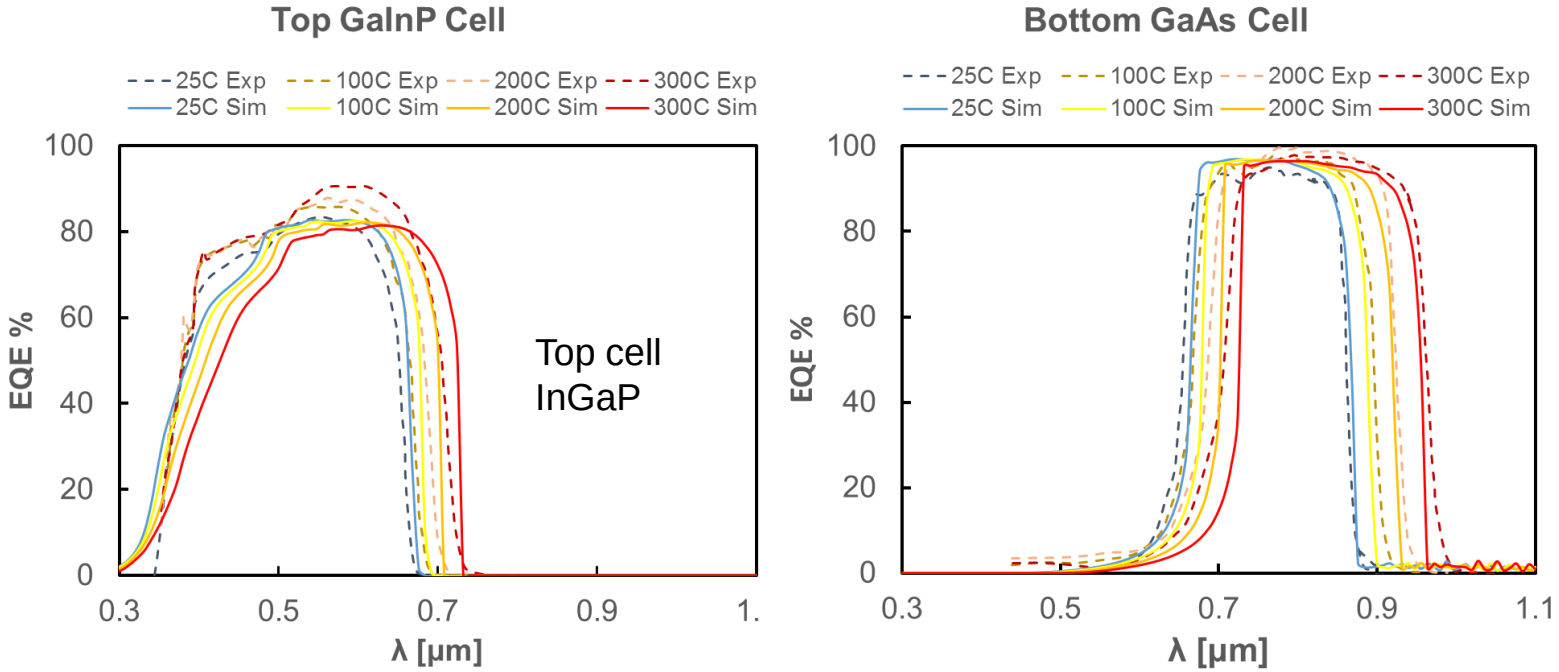


temperature dependence of the material bandgap, $E_g(T)$ is described by:

$$E_g(T) = E_{g0} - \frac{\alpha T^2}{\beta + T}$$

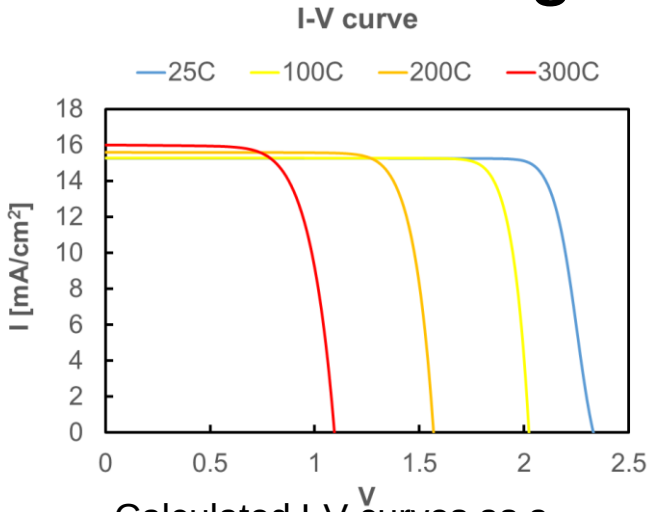
GaAs temperature-dependent imaginary refractive index, k.

EQE spectra of top and bottom cells as a function of temperature. The dashed lines are the experimentally measured spectra while solid lines are the results of the Sentaurus model:

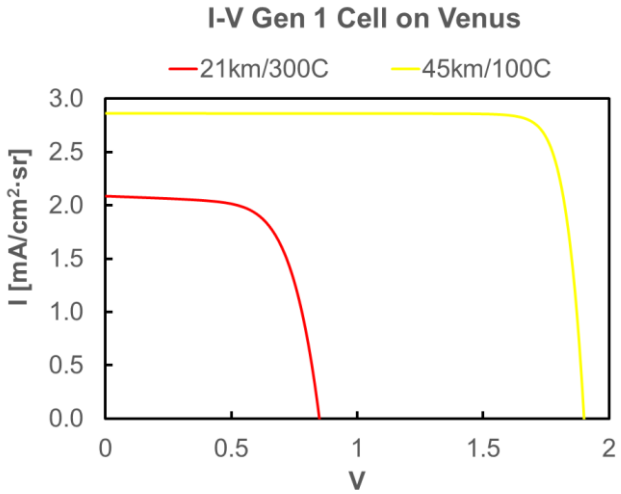


Solar cell modelling and optimization (Caltech)

Before Optimization

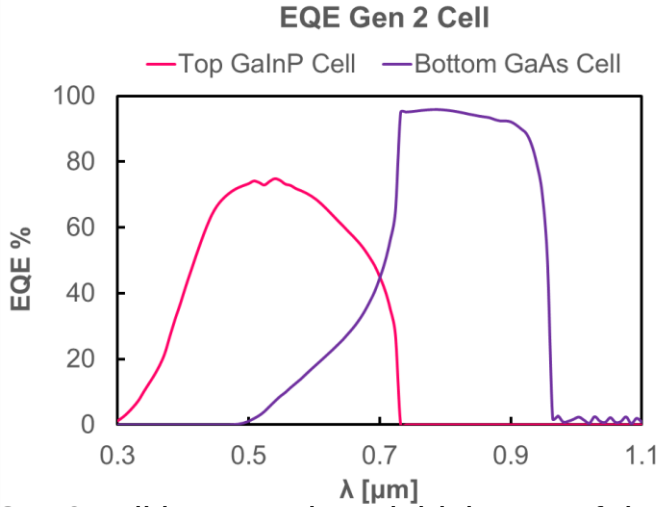


Calculated I-V curves as a function of temperature – AM0

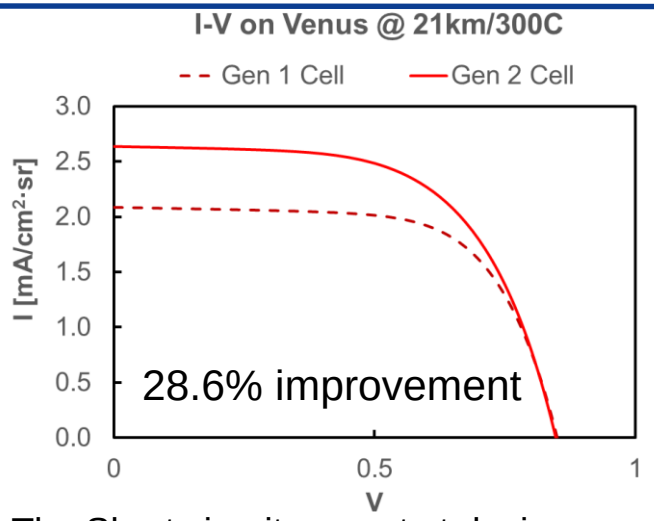


Bottom GaAs cell is current limiting Venus solar spectrum

After Optimization



Gen2 cell has a reduced thickness of the top GaInP cell to ensure current matching



The Short circuit current at design conditions of 21km/300C is increased from 2.1 to 2.7 mA/cm²/sr

Conclusion

- Venus solar spectrum and temperature vary significantly with altitude.
- Solar cell needs to be designed for a particular spectrum and temperature – therefore particular altitude conditions.
- For Metallization 1, no degradation observed after 1 week at 300°C. Series resistance appears after 1 week at 465°C. For Metallization 2, degradation appears after 24 hours at 465°C.
- Modelling shows an optimal design for a dual junction InGaP/GaAs solar cell at 21km Venus altitude where temperature is 300°C.
- Combined and coordinated experimental and analytic approach is allowing us to accelerate progress and development of a high-temperature PV cell design for Venus and other terrestrial applications.

<u>Future work:</u>

- Understanding degradation mechanism at high temperature
- Improve metallization for survivability up to 1 month at 465°C
- Fabricate optimized InGaP/GaAs solar cell at 21km Venus altitude/300°C

Acknowledgements

jpl.nasa.gov

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